

**University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Senate Executive Committee**

**Minutes**

Monday, January 26, 2015

Present: Chair Roy Campbell, Vice Chair Kim Graber, Abbas Aminmansour, Nicholas Burbules, John Hart, Matthew Hill, Prasanta Kalita, Calvin Lear, Melissa Madsen, William Maher, Mary Mallory, Gay Miller, David O'Brien, Michael Sandretto, Kevin Seymour, Joyce Tolliver

Guests: President Robert Easter, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Ilesanmi Adesida, Associate Chancellor Reginald Alston, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Academic Policies Abbas Benmamoun, Associate Provost Katherine Galvin, Equal Opportunity and Inclusion Committee Chair Harry Hilton, Associate Chancellor for Public Affairs Robin Kaler, Randy McCarthy, Ben McCall, Vice Chancellor for Research Peter Schiffer, Chancellor Phyllis Wise

Media: Daily Illini – Abigale Svoboda, Inside Illinois – Mike Helenthal, News-Gazette – Christine De Garennes

A special meeting of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) was called to order at 3:10 pm on Monday, January 26, 2015 in 232 English Building, with Chair Campbell presiding.

Chair Campbell welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

President Easter thanked SEC members for the continued advice and the positive impact that has resulted. Easter expressed his belief that unless there is a shared vision for creating excellence it is difficult to achieve. Easter noted that this will be the last time he has the opportunity to attend the SEC as the President. The transition period will be long, but Easter has enjoyed working with President-elect Killeen.

Easter has been working on plans to engage with the legislature and the new governor. Budget recommendations are expected by the end of February. The income tax that was augmented by a temporary increase is now off the books. There is less revenue. The state owes the university in excess of \$3 million dollars. This amount will only continue to grow as the state becomes later and later on making payments. The governor's office has asked for any unexpended dollars, but all of our state funding is committed in compensation. The University offered a modest amount from renovation funds. Executive orders 8 includes limiting travel expenses and personnel spending and order 9 is about gifts and lobbying. The impact of these executive orders is not clear. Easter plans to meet in Chicago next week with the council that drafted the executive orders for clarification.

It is clear that the Board of Trustees (BOT) has authority surrounding employment. There is no way for the Board to transfer their hiring authority, but they could delegate the authority. There has to be some capacity for minimal decisions at the campus level.

President Easter meets once a month with each chancellor to discuss each campus. A new chancellor has been found for the Chicago campus and now a search will begin for the Vice Chancellor of Health Affairs. The current Vice President for health affairs will be replaced by the new Vice Chancellor of Health Affairs. The hospital at the Chicago campus is a huge entity along with the seven colleges with those that have service or clinical functions, the practice plan, the physicians, clinical services, etc. Those entities have never had a point where everything comes together.

Easter mentioned the background checks policy that is being worked on. University Office for Human Resources Associate Vice President Maureen Parks is leading this effort. It has been made clear there are no objections to hiring those with criminal backgrounds. Currently background checks are only done for those with position handling major funding or childcare. Burbules noted that there is a current committee that reviews background checks, but if the checks are now going to be reviewing academic employees, there needs to be a majority of faculty on the committee. Easter agreed that the committee definitely needs faculty representation.

There were about 45 recommendations that the chancellors have agreed on. One of which was to give faculty a two week exposure to those administrative duties that happen in colleges. This has not happened yet, but has

been interesting to be part of conversations. Some people that have great intentions do not have awareness of the impact.

The administrative portion of University Administration (UA) is about \$90 million dollars. This includes maintenance of systems like Banner. Banner was partially paid for by campus taxes. Another 6% budget reduction cannot be sustained without impacting our ability to provide services. With Banner, we are all using data in the same data warehouse. This campus has a very functional Division of Management Information (DMI). Within AITS (Administrative Information Technology Services) there are strategic information services. There might be an opportunity to bring some of those types of entities together.

Unfunded mandates is still an issue that needs to be addressed with the new governor. There are various mandates that the university is obligated to do by law, but not given any funds to do. The new governor wants to identify areas to improve efficiencies and we will be asking if these mandates are all still necessary.

Easter asked the question: Where is higher education going and what is the role of community colleges? There have been proposals from community colleges to offer 4 year degrees. Three year degrees and year round programming has also been proposed to create efficiencies. Over the next several years this will be the discussion and movement in this area. Higher education has been somewhat stable, but affordability and accessibility are current topics of discussion. There are also discussion surrounding the impact a university has on the surrounding community such as our Research Park and other areas of innovation and technology.

The city of Chicago providing college for free to students from their public schools was mentioned. Easter noted that there is still the question of how it will be funded. Community colleges have the authority to create taxes in the surrounding district. It is an extension of the k-12 philosophy.

O'Brien brought up the cost of the university going to court over union disputes and that the university has consistently lost. O'Brien asked if the cost was worth the effort. Easter replied that he was unsure of the actual monetary costs, but that the university has an obligation to all of our areas and they have the ability to form collective bargaining groups. As an employer, we need to make sure union formation is done properly. The university has over 150 bargaining units and Easter feels there is a pretty good relationship between the bargaining units and the university.

Traveling restrictions are part of the new executive orders and the Governor is referring to appropriated dollars. Any grants money or tuition dollars are not included, but the university is seeking clarification. The executive order is about unnecessary travel or other unnecessary expenses, not just limiting travel in general.

Easter commented that with health and medical centers there seems to be a need for greater clinical involvement. Easter is hopeful that by the time the Board meets, the university might have a better perspective on it. Easter mentioned other health related topics such as the affordable care act and how healthcare is given, the issue of vaccinations. The role of specified care is expanding. Humboldt Park is completely staffed by nurses. The university has all the pieces of defining the new role of healthcare and the ability to provide the technology. The model on the Urbana campus been successful, but there is a need for clinical.

Easter discussed higher education quality and affordability. Changes will need to be made, but the university still needs to prepare people to engage and be productive. Part of the challenge is how you create the discussion, including three year bachelors programs and six year medical programs. An employer wants an employee to have certain credentials. At some point, someone else might provide another group of credentials that an employer will feel is equivalent. There are going to be others out there that can offer another credential at a lower cost.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:04pm.

Jenny Roether  
Clerk of the Senate